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**Newsletter**

**Number 14**

**27 May 2011**



**Website** [www.matarau.school.nz](http://www.matarau.school.nz)

**Phone / Fax** (09) 433 5823 **Email** – [admin@matarau.school.nz](mailto:admin@matarau.school.nz)

**Thanks**

... To those parents who dropped by to listen to visiting missionary Helen Eager.

.. To Christine Redwood who did a superb job (food) catering for visitors to our school this week.

.. To those parents who have dropped by to check the currency of any medication held at the school office.

**People of the week**

.. Riorden was awarded "Player of the Day" for Ruatangata Hockey Mixed C Grade. Well done Riorden.

.. Matthew who received "Player of the Day" and 4 tries for his first game of Ripper Rugby. He also helped out the other team for half of the game.

.. Georgia for receiving "Player of the Day" for Matarau Y4/6 netball team.

.. Laura for showing compassion this week.

.. Lisa Jones and Angie Duff who continue to work tirelessly each Wednesday afternoon getting our school garden in shape .. and motivating some enthusiastic young gardeners.

**CURRENT VIRTUE .. COMPASSION**

Let us know if you did not receive your support material.

Please remember to ..

.. take the time to discuss the attached material with your child(ren) at home.

.. discuss times when you have / do apply this virtue in your own lives.

.. seek out some opportunities for application over the next few weeks.

.. advise us of your successes so that we can share these with others.

**Dental Caravan**

Remember that messages for the diagnostic clinic can be left at the school office. Where a message is left, your child should be seen within a week. For more urgent cases please phone the Whangarei Hospital on 4700012.

We are pleased to advise we have received a firm assurance that every child will be seen by the diagnostic team over the coming weeks.

**New Appointment**

We are pleased to advise that Mrs Jo Gunson has been appointed to the Year 7 and 8 teaching position vacated by Mrs Williams and will commence teaching here on 7 June. Mrs Gunson (currently teaching at K.I.S.) will bring many new and valuable skills to our teaching team and we are thrilled to have her on board.

## **20 Hour Famine**

Good luck to those children (and adults) participating in this weekend's 20 Hour Famine.

## **Forthcoming dates to note**

.. 31 May	Choir to Hurupaki School
.. 2 June	Intermediate Winter Sports Tournament
.. 6 June	Queen's Birthday holiday
.. 14 June	Primary Winter Sports Tournament
.. 1 July	Middle School Rippa Rugby Tournament
.. 5 July	Choir to Hurupaki School
.. 11 July	School Science fair
.. 11/12 July	Mid year parent / teacher interviews

## **Term Overviews**

It is our usual practice to send home an overview of term topics in each of terms 2, 3 and 4. We are happy to continue doing this but we are not sure how useful parents find these. This term parents are asked to contact their child's teacher (or the school office) if they would like an overview. Based on your response we will make a determination of whether or not we send these home to all families next term. Term overviews do provide parents with a ready response when your child advises they "didn't do much today .. or that they can't remember what they are doing at the moment" as well as providing the opportunity for parents to get involved where they have a particular strength or interest.

## **Year 7 and 8 Winter Tournament 2 June - URGENT**

A number of children have not yet returned consents for this event. Please get these to us on Monday.

Would also love to hear from a few more parents able to assist with supervision and / or refereeing. If able to help please give Mr D a call on Monday.

Parents are asked to ensure children bring their lunch, a drink bottle, mouth guards if playing either rugby or hockey, and spending money at your discretion,

## **Early notice - Parents of Year 8 (or 7) students**

Senior managers from Kamo High School will visit us on the evening of 28 June (7:30 pm in the staffroom) to discuss their programmes and answer questions. You might like to pencil in this date.

## **Science FAIR - Senior School**

Teachers will keep parents pretty up to date with this programme as it unfolds and, in most cases, parents will receive timelines showing what needs to be done by when. Please contact your child's teacher EARLY if they are encountering difficulty or if you have any questions. This is a team effort and we are here to help. A quick look at your child's homework book will indicate the "state of play" for your child.

## **Virtues Club**

A number of children have recently been assigned to our "Virtues Club". These children will assist with the introduction of virtues in their classrooms and will be a special "point of reference" for their classmates. Each fortnight these children will meet to discuss their progress, learn a new virtues game / activity to share with their class and receive / complete certificates acknowledging the efforts of other children. We will keep you posted on the work of these children .. current focus (of course) .. "caught being compassionate".

## **After School Reading Labs**

We have been pretty impressed with the commitment of the children involved in this programme and with early signs of progress for most of them. It will take a term for us to be clear on the actual extent of any progress but parents are welcome to drop by with any questions along the way. We are seeing some common "errors or omissions" and so are making these the subject of explicit teaching. We remain grateful for the efforts of Lesley and Kaye who are assisting the programme on top of their regular teaching loads. Parents (in small numbers) are welcome to sit in on sessions.

### Preparation for International Schools English Exam

.. will begin next week with an initial meeting, distribution of papers etc.

**For those new to this programme please note ..**

.. participants will meet periodically at school to discuss progress and address any problems.

.. that the school makes practice papers available from the school office - new papers can be accessed when the previous paper is returned.

.. children are provided with answers to past tests at their level.

.. parents are asked to assist their children to designate a **suitable time and place** at home for the sitting of tests.

.. children are asked to complete a **MINIMUM** of one practice paper each week in the period running up to test day (2 August).

.. children / parents may negotiate down regular homework loads in recognition of this additional workload.

.. to some degree sample questions and practice activities will be integrated within regular class programmes to assist in the process of preparation.

Parents should feel free to contact Kevin at any time with questions.

### Preparation for International Schools Mathematics Exam

.. will commence week beginning 13 June.

### School Contribution

Those who opted for term contributions will have received a request for payment last week. These payments are voluntary but are encouraged and very much appreciated. Always let us know if you would like to discuss alternative payment arrangements.

### Cellphones

We discourage children from bringing cellphones to school but we realise that cellphones are a good idea in specific circumstances. If your child does bring a cellphone to school it is important that they drop it to the office on arrival and pick it up after school. We promise to look after them.

### Music Lessons at school - LAST CALL!

If interested in piano or keyboard lessons for your child(ren) please give Kevin a call next week. There is a possibility of tutors visiting during school time if there is sufficient interest. The cost would be \$18 for 20 minutes / \$22.50 for 30 minutes. Tutors are apparently pretty experienced. Some interest to date but not enough yet to make this viable.

### Maori Liaison Person

The Board is keen to appoint a Maori liaison person to act as a contact and support person for Maori families and to advise the Board where appropriate. If you would like to discuss your availability / suitability for such a role please give Kevin a call or have a chat to a board member.

### A few wee reminders

.. we encourage each child to have a drink bottle for their desk / table top each day

.. the school day officially starts at 9:00 AM .. parents are encouraged to have children at school at least 10-15 minutes in advance of this time so they can get organised for the school day.

.. if dropping off a child in the upper carpark please **pull to the side** so other cars can get through and **be patient if waiting**.

### Choir .. can you help?

Please make contact Mrs Williams (Grace) if able to accompany our choir on any of their off-site visits - 31 May, 5 July and 8 August.

### Zumba - LAST CALL

Our zumba tutor is no longer taking sessions here at school but we have had an approach from another provider. We are not sure what interest there is in this so .. if you would likely attend Zumba classes here in the school hall on one evening a week, please give Kevin a call. Some interest so far but still not quite at the viability threshold yet.

### **Tutoring – year 7 and 8**

English and Maths. 3:45 to 4:30 – 5:00 to 5:45. If interested phone Anita on 4380457.

### **Community Notices**

Grazing Wanted – For 2 horses, 1 pony. Ph Lotus 4335808 or 0212465055.

Firewood – Shed dried, ph Neroli 4338185.

Badminton Open – 3 July at Northland Badminton Centre. Its an opportunity to play against other NZ players or just to come along and watch junior badminton.

Badminton Coaching – If you are 15 and over and interested in learning to become trainee coaches and assisting us with our Junior Schools Programme. The next course intake is 12 June.. Best graduates of our trainee coach programme will gain paid positions. Volunteer and work opportunities from as little as 1 to 10 hours a week. Work in your local area. On-going support and mentoring. No experience necessary.

Eczema Presentation – Practical tips for daily management, Tues 21 June, 7pm, ASB Lounge, ASB Leisure Centre, Western Hills Dr, To register email [allergy@allergy.org.nz](mailto:allergy@allergy.org.nz) or call 0800340800 ext 2.

Trivial Pursuit Night – Kamo Intermediate School, Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> July, 7pm, Lucky spot prizes, raffles, auction, entertainment. \$90 per team of 6. No Door sales, Book at Office 4350343

Storytime Character Hunt – Sunday 15 May, 10.30-12.30, Whangarei Central Library, The annual scavenger hunt for favourite storybook characters. Loads of fun for everyone. Don't miss it! All children attending must have an accompanying adult.

Aladdin Pantomime – presented by Kamo High School, 22 May @ 2pm and 23-28 May @ 7pm. Enquiries and Bookings phone 4351688.

Kamo JB1 Rugby – are 2 boys/girls short for one of our teams. It's tackle rugby at this grade and probably best if player is 7 or 8 yrs old. Phone Mary Finlayson 4370441.

Cadbury Chocolate – Caramello and Dairy Milk for sale, \$2.50 each. Left over from the School fundraiser.

School Newsletter .. If you would like to receive this by email contact us on [admin@matarau.school.nz](mailto:admin@matarau.school.nz)

### **Sponsors**

Our sponsors support our school. Please use their services when you can.

### **Visit by Helen Eager – Asian Aid**

As you will know the school was mightily blessed this week by the visit of missionary Helen Eager. It is truly humbling to hear of the work Helen is doing in a part of the world where life can be a daily struggle. Helen impressed upon the children how much we take for granted simple things like a bed to sleep on, clean water to drink, a roof over our head, food in our stomachs, a welfare safety net, the opportunity to go to school and so on and so on. Children had much to talk about on their return to class and we were all appreciative to see someone who puts COMPASSION into practice. We encourage you to discuss Helen's talk as part of your home discussions on the topic of compassion.

And further ..

Anyone wanting to know more about the work of Helen Eager and Asian Aid, or interested in sponsoring a child with an organisation where close to 100% goes to the child concerned, please drop by to the office for a brochure or visit [www.asianaid.org.au](http://www.asianaid.org.au)

### **And Finally**

What do you call a multi-storey pig-pen? A sty-scraper.

Regards  
Kevin Trehwella  
PRINCIPAL

Our Sponsors support your  
children, please support them

**INDEPENDENT GLASS**  
**Grant Williams**  
**027 483 3090**